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LETTER DATED 1 OCTOBER 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to convey its great concern at the new unilateral and arbitrary decision of the United Nations civil presence in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, to open Pristina Airport for commercial flights.

By taking that decision, the United Nations Interim Administrative Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) has violated the security system of civilian air traffic in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which, according to relevant rules and regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has the sole responsibility and rights in its undivided airspace.

The UNMIK decision constitutes a violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and runs counter to Yugoslavia's ICAO membership rights and the rules and regulations of that organization.

At the meeting on normalization of air traffic in the Balkans held between 21 and 23 September 1999 under ICAO auspices, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia rendered a constructive contribution to the unanimous position taken on the question of normalization of air traffic in the region.

In order to maintain and promote air traffic security, all decisions of international organizations and their organs and bodies should be fully coordinated with the competent air traffic authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects that the UNMIK decision be revoked and that the question of the opening of Pristina Airport for commercial flights be resolved in cooperation with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the basis of the rules and regulations of the ICAO Convention, of which the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is one of the signatory parties.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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